Model Act of UGC

*16. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the concept paper on the proposed Model Act of the UGC;

(b) whether it is a fact that concept paper is spiralling into a national level controversy with the Central Universities deciding to make a serious protest;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a clause of the proposal encourages colleges to generate financial resources from the private sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) According to the information provided by the UGC, a concept paper has been prepared by it with the help of an Expert Committee to elicit views from various stakeholders of the university system to enable UGC to formulate a Model Act for universities of the 21st century in India.

The paper is divided into two parts: Part I is entitled "Towards guidelines for a Model Act", presenting the various issues concerned with this subject in five sections. Part II, entitled "Towards formulation of a Model Act" gives a questionnaire relating to the contents of Part I and seeks feedback responses from all the constituents of the university system in the country. The concept paper has been circulated by the UGC to various stakeholders of the university system and has also been placed on the UGC website seeking responses from all over the country before further processing the case.

A large number of responses have been received by the UGC on the concept paper from various stakeholders of the university system from all over the country. However, a section of academicians has opined that reforms in governance should come from within instead of through imposition of Model Act and that there should be an informed consultation in the matter before mooting any proposal in this regard. Clause 15 of

part I and para 4A of the concept paper contains the provision regarding generation of financial/physical resources on the part of the universities by tapping various sources, like, Central/State Governments, Non-Governmental Organisations, International Funding Agencies, Philanthropists and other donors, etc.

The UGC has clarified that the proposed Model Act, as and when finalized, shall not be binding on any university. Rather, it would work as a reference document for the universities which want to amend their existing Act to facilitate them in the implementation of various innovative ideals, like, autonomy to colleges resource mobilization, use of IT in management etc. UGC does not propose to encroach upon the autonomy of the universities or to reduce funding to the universities through the proposed Model Act.

Uniform fee structure in IIMs

*17. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether IIMs have evolved any uniform fee structure for new students;

(b) if so, the consensus formula finalised over fee reduction; and

(c) its impact on the principle of autonomy in all institutions of higher learning?

THE MINISTER HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) At the instance of the Government, all the six Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calcutta, Lucknow, Indore and Kozhikode deliberated on the fee structure for new students with a view to reach a consensus in the matter. In this regard, they have decided that:

(i) The Institutes will ensure that no student faces any difficulty in pursuing education at the Institute for want of financial resources;

(ii) The fees charged by the Institutes in the year 2003-04 will be continued in the session starting June, 2004;